

The Connection

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2026

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Greetings to all ARDOT retirees. Wow! This year is going by so fast. It seems like no sooner than summer arrives it is time for our annual meeting (in October) then it will be Christmas the very next week.

As you are aware, the last few years have been hard on the World, our Country, and our Association. The district chapters are meeting again, and we will have our fifth Statewide meeting since the pandemic at the Bishop Park Recreation Center in Bryant on Thursday October 22, 2026, beginning at 11:00 a.m. Our speaker this year is Shane Broadway, former state legislator and current Vice President for University Relations at the Arkansas State University System in Little Rock. Further details are included in this newsletter.

Membership and participation in the Association allows us to continue the fellowships and friendships developed over our years of service. But there are other reasons for joining and participating. Among them are:

- To stay informed of what is happening at ARDOT. This includes getting updates about retirement benefits, health insurance and financials.
- To promote or oppose legislation which affects retirees. Although the Association is not a registered lobbying organization, informing retirees about proposed changes to laws and regulations allows retirees to let their local representatives know about their informed opinions of the changes.
- To encourage all retired employees to act as goodwill ambassadors to promote the activities and traditions of ARDOT.

The best way to keep up with news affecting our retirees is through the local retiree chapter meetings. Each District has a Retiree Chapter with set meeting dates, times, and locations. The northwest corner of the state has a Chapter made up of retirees who worked in that corner of the state for District 4 or District 9. This Newsletter has that information in the Chapter Reports section; this information is also found on the Department's website (ardot.gov). Once on the website, the information can be found at: Divisions/Benefits and Compensation/Association of Retired ARDOT Employees.

<https://ardot.gov/retirees>

You can also open the ARDOT website and search for Retirees. Several previous Newsletters, Members of the Retirement Board, Chapters and their officers, Assembly Officers and Charter Members are also listed on the website. In addition, there is an “ARDOT Retiree Association” Facebook page. Check there for updates from the district chapters for meeting times and locations. You know you would really enjoy seeing the people you spent so much of your time with over the years.

After one year serving as the President of the Association, I will be handing over the Presidency to Senior Vice President Terry Tucker and many thanks to Ronnie and Kit Smith for serving as Statewide Secretary/Treasurer. Patty Anthony has taken over the position.

We are still in need of members to serve as the Senior Vice President and Vice President for the coming new terms. You do not need to be in central Arkansas to serve in these positions. Please contact Terry, Patty, or me if you are interested in serving as Senior Vice President or Vice President or be ready to nominate someone at the Annual Meeting in October.

Julie Hart, President



STATEWIDE ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Statewide Retirees’ meeting will be held at the Bishop Park Recreation Center in Bryant on Thursday, October 22, 2026, beginning at 11:00 a.m. Catering is provided by King Kat. This year, unfortunately, we have had to raise the price from \$15 per person to \$20 per person. We have all been affected by the increase in prices of goods and services due to inflation. However, membership remains at \$15 per retiree and \$10 per spouse, a bargain to help you stay informed about upcoming events and other items of interest.



Guest speaker, Shane Broadway, is a former Democratic state legislator, serving in the Arkansas General Assembly from 1997 to 2011 with a focus on education policy. He is truly a “local boy,” having graduated from Bryant High School in 1990, and Arkansas State University in Jonesboro in 1994 with a bachelor’s degree in political science.

Broadway served three terms in the Arkansas House of Representatives representing Saline County, and two terms in the Arkansas Senate for Pulaski and Saline counties. He was elected Speaker of the House by his colleagues in 2001, becoming the youngest Speaker of the House in Arkansas history.

Broadway served as chairman of the 15-state Southern Legislative Conference (SLC) and as chairman of the SLC’s Education Committee. He then served as director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education under Gov. Mike Beebe and Gov. Asa Hutchinson for four years. Broadway currently serves as Vice President for University Relations at the Arkansas State University System in Little Rock.





Open enrollment for the 2027 plan year will take place from November 1 to November 30, 2026. There will be no major changes to the health plans for 2027. However, retirees will see a rate increase. A rate sheet will be mailed out soon.

Other updates:

- Remember we switched Dental providers in 2026. If you have never received your BCBS Dental Card, please let us know.
- Health Advantage is changing to Blue Advantage, no benefit changes.

More details on these changes will be included in the open enrollment packet, which you can expect to receive in your mailbox in late September or early October.

Please Be Advised: If you enroll in any other Medicare Supplement, Medicare Advantage, or Part D prescription drug plan, your coverage with us will be terminated. Once you leave the plan, you will not be eligible to re-enroll or return to the plan in the future.

For any questions, please contact Ronda or Lauren in the Insurance office at 501-569-2420.

NEWS FROM THE ASHERS OFFICE

COLA: The Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for Fiscal Year 2027 is 2.57%. This increase is reflected in your July 2026 benefit payment.

DIRECT DEPOSIT: Please consider changing from paper warrants to direct deposit for your annuity benefits. Contact the Retirement Office for more information. 501-569-2532



Address and Beneficiary Changes

If you move, please notify our office to update your address as soon as possible.

In addition to keeping your address and phone number current, you also need to keep your beneficiaries current. Since 2001, the Arkansas State Highway Employees' Retirement System (ASHERS) provides an additional lump-sum benefit of \$7,500 payable to your beneficiary at the retiree's death. If you have any questions about this benefit or the beneficiary for this benefit, please call RoShunda Watson at (501) 569-2532.

You should contact the Group Insurance Office at (501) 569-2417 for beneficiary updates on your life insurance. These beneficiaries are separate from your beneficiaries in the Retirement Office.

District Chapter Meetings



At some meetings, representatives from the Association, Benefits and Compensation Division, and the Insurance Section will give a presentation and be available for questions.

District 1- Roy Morris, President (870-588-2129)

2nd Thursday, Quarterly 11:00 a.m.

March, June, September, December

Catfish Island, Caldwell

District 2- Vacant, President

3rd Thursday, Quarterly 11:00 a.m.

March, June, September, December

Location TBD

District 3- Jim Blackwell, President (870-451-1040) blackwell119@sbcglobal.net

2nd Wednesday, Quarterly 11:00 a.m.

March, June, September, December

Location TBD

District 4- Not meeting at this time

District 5- "Shorty" Coles, Vice-President (870-307-7795)

2nd Tuesday, Monthly 11:30 a.m.

Las Playitas, Batesville

Central Office/District 6- Mike Selig, President (501-837-1917) mselig2@att.net

1st Monday, Monthly 11:30 a.m. (1st Tuesday if Monday is a holiday)

Whole Hog BBQ on Markham

District 7- Mike Nelson, President (870-818-8724) mnelsonwelding@yahoo.com

2nd Thursday, Odd Months 11:00 a.m.

Palenque Mexican Restaurant, Camden

District 8- Janet Boozer, President (501-749-2204)

2nd Tuesday, Even Months 11:00 a.m.

Stoby's, Russellville

District 9- Jeff Wheeler, President jandpwheeler@hotmail.com

Bi-Annual 11:30 a.m. October 9th, Spring 2027 TBD

Western Sizzlin, Harrison

District 10- Alan Walter, President (870-586-3649) gravelroadark@gmail.com

3rd Thursday, Odd Months 11:30 a.m.

Grecian Restaurant, Paragould

NWA Chapter- Sam Turner, President

Contact Officers for Dates

Golden Corral, Rogers 1:00 p.m.

IN LOVING
memory

Adcock, Dan*	Elmore, Laura*	Johnson, Varnatice	Shaw, Timothy
Almeda, Michael	Elumbaugh, Alice*	Jones, Danny	Sherley, Charles
Almond, Belle Jean*	Ervin, Paul	Jones, Luther	Shields, Regina*
Ames, Byron	Ethridge, Betty	Jones, Martha*	Shields, William
Barfield, George	Fairley, Lindsey	Jones, Steven	Shrable, Pascal
Barrow, Ruby*	Fleming, Barbara*	Jordan, Anita	Simmons, Asreen*
Bartlett, Arvil	Frazier, Anna*	Kay, James	Small, Ruby*
Bass, James	Frazier, Mignon	Kendrick, Dorothy	Smith, David
Bastress Jr., William	French, Gary	Key, James	Smith, Herman
Baugus, James	Fultz, James	Lancaster, Wanda	Smith, James
Benson, Phillip	Gaither, James	Letson, Barry	Smith, Jimmy
Biggers, Norma*	Garner, William	Lister, Jean*	South, Mark
Bradford, Minnie	Gates, Diane	Littleton, Roosevelt*	Specking, Roger
Branch, Mary*	Gee, James	Long, David	Spoon, Deborah
Brightwell, Ronald	Gossett, Robert	Magness, Joe	Squires, Mildred*
Brown, George	Graddy, Doris*	Marchese, Vincent*	Starling, Roger
Burnette, Janice	Griffin, Donald	McCloud, Donna	Stuckey, Judy
Cantu, Angela	Griffin, Rosa*	McDorman, Marylan*	Sturch, Thomas
Carr, Harold	Griffis, Frances*	McVay, Debbie	Swink, Siegle
Carte, Alta*	Hawkins, Anna*	Newberry, Donald	Thompson, Ed
Cater, Paul	Hawkins, Bonnie*	Nine, Reba*	Thornsberry, Clifford
Cates, Floyd	Henriksen, Richard	Owens, Bruce	Travis, Betty*
Childers, Eddie	Heye, Steven	Page, Linda	Tyler, Melba*
Christopher, Curtis	Heyward, Thomas	Parks, Barbara	Vannatter, Wanda*
Clark, Barbara*	Hice Jr., Bobby	Parrish, Joseph	Vaugh Jr., Luther
Clark, Melton	Hill, Billy	Parson, Laveda*	Vaughn, Alvin
Coburn, John*	Hill, Ruby*	Patterson, Larry	Walker, Burl
Conway, Verna*	Holland, Leon	Phillips, Allen	Walker, James
Cordell, Robert	Holmes, Allan	Phillips, Carmath	Walker, Percy
Corley, James	Horn, Calvin	Phillips, William	Welch, Bobby
Cox, Teresa*	Horton, Loris	Porter, Bradley	Welcher, James
Crites, Carmet	Horton, Vernon	Raines, Barbara*	White, Harold
Crites, Thomas	Howell, Deborah*	Rainwater, Jackie	White, Patricia*
Daniel, William	Howell, Eleanor*	Reed, Danny	Whitehurst, Carl
Davis, Raymond	Howell, Sammy	Revels, Gary	Williams, Richard
Device, Philip	Hughes, Bobby	Rigsby, Joseph	Williams, Willard
Dillon, Margaret*	Humphries, Buford	Roberts, Marcia	Willis, Odos
Dismuke, Albert	Jarrett, John	Robertson, Burl	Wilson, David
Duck, Janis*	Jenkinson, Patricia*	Robinson, Terry	Yates, Melvin
Eledge, Jimmy	Johnson, James	Root, Doyle	

Spouse*

“We regret any omissions”



Tickets for Statewide Annual Meeting
11:00 a.m. October 22, 2026
Bishop Park, Bryant Arkansas
\$20.00 Per Person
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
AHTD Retirees Association
PLEASE RSVP BY OCTOBER 9

King Kat of Lonoke
is catering the event
with fish, chicken, and
all the trimmings!

District / Central Office Division _____

Name _____	Member _____	Spouse _____
Name _____	Member _____	Spouse _____
Name _____	Member _____	Spouse _____
Name _____	Member _____	Spouse _____

Address to send tickets to: _____

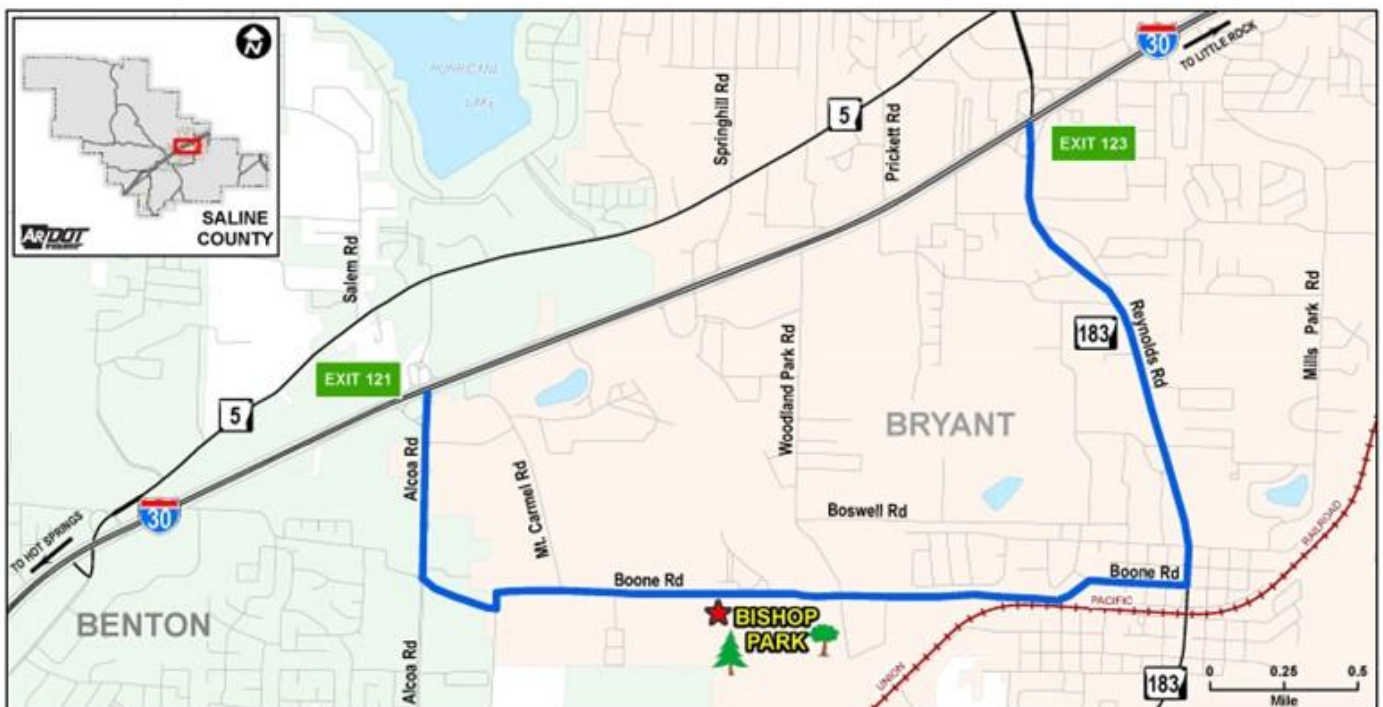
Phone Number: _____

Mail this form with your check to: Patty Anthony, 28 Autumnbrook Lane, Conway, AR 72032



**Do not miss out on food, fun, fellowship, door prizes and
valuable information!!!**

BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER AT BISHOP PARK



ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED
ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION EMPLOYEES
INC.



Patty Anthony
Secretary/Treasurer
28 Autumnbrook Lane
Conway, AR 72032

Return Service Requested

Presort Standard
U. S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 645
NLR, AR
72114

GO AHEAD AND MAIL YOUR CHECK TODAY!

We urge you to fill out the Membership Application Form below. You can turn it in to your local Chapter Secretary/Treasurer or mail application and \$15.00 annual membership dues or \$10 annual spouse dues to: **Patty Anthony, Secretary/Treasurer, 28 Autumnbrook Lane, Conway, AR 72032.** Make your check payable to: **AHTD Retirees Association.**

2027 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Retiree Name _____

☐

\$15 Fee Enclosed

Spouse Name _____

☐

\$10 Fee Enclosed

Phone Number (optional) _____ Year You Retired _____

Central Office Division/
District No. _____

Address _____
Street or Route & Box No. _____ City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____

E-Mail Address _____